(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been signed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by what time the agreement is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) An Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) has been signed on 4th October, 2000 with the Government of the Russian Federation which, *inter-alia,* provides for the acquisition of 'Admiral Gorshkov', an aircraft carrier, from Russian and its refit and modernisation. Negotiations for procurement of Admiral Gorshkov are being held. It is not possible to lay down a time limit for such a major acquisition.

CVC Report on Defence Deals

111. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CVC has submitted its final report to Government on defence deals; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken on the findings of CVC?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on CVC's recommendations, the Government has set up the defence Procuremnet Board, issued instructions on evolving Standard Procedure for mandatory and time bound scrutiny by the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Central Vigilance Commission of all major defence related purchase decisions, placed important data on procurement on the Defence Ministry's web site to encourage accessibility and transparency.

Modernisation of Indian Army, Navy and Air Force

112. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large amount totalling to Rs. 3,000 crores for purchase of weapons is lying unutilised;

(b) if so, reasons for not utilising the amount; and

(c) details of the measures taken by Government to modernise Indian Army, Navy and Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A number of proposals for procurement of weapon systems and equipment for modernisation of Armed Forces are at various stages of the procurement process, like technical evaluation/trails and finalisation of prices and contractual terms, etc. The funds catered for such proposals can only be utilsed on completion of these stages and on making payments as per contractual terms.

Modernisation of the Armed Forces is a continuous process and new procurement structures have been established to speed up the procurement process for Modernisation.

Indo-French strategic dialogue

113. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ninth round of Indo-French Strategic Dialogue was held in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreements reached?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. The ninth round of Indo-French Strategic Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 6th January, 2003.

(b) No agreements were signed during this Strategic Dialogue.

Punching of driving licences of traffic violators

114. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Licenses of traffic violators to be punched from January 30th, appearing in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated the 9th January, 2003;